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Downtown News

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In the Spotlight Old Masonic Temple

Constructed on North Church Street in 1927, this handsome Egyptian Revival structure is a copy of a much larger Masonic Temple located in Philadelphia. It is the only building of its type in the southeastern United States. The building features a grand façade with lotus columns and a bold wing motif.

Downtown Renaissance recently awarded the building owners, John and Nancy Brooks of Raleigh, funds to assist in nominating the building to the National Register of Historic Places.

Building Improvements in Downtown New Awnings and Window Replacements Enhance Properties

Hurricane winds and blistering sunrays had taken a harsh toll on the awnings on the Davis Furniture Building over time. The Central City Revitalization Panel recently awarded a matching grant to the owner of the building as part of the Central City Building Improvement grant program for the City of Rocky Mount. Three other grant agreements have been approved by the panel. The Downtown Development Manager is working with eight other applicants to draw up satisfactory grant agreements for projects to improve other downtown buildings.

Information about the program and grant applications are available from the Downtown Development web site at www.ci.rocky-mount.us/downtown or by calling the Downtown Development Manager at 972-1267.



ABOVE: Awnings at 163 SE Main battered after hurricane winds

LEFT: 163 SE Main after awning replacement

Did You Know?

Downtown Renaissance, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization organized in 1985 in an effort to stimulate the revitalization of the central city.

The Central City Revitalization Panel includes representation from DRI as key stakeholders in the development of a master plan for downtown revitalization.

It's Official-Downtown Rocky Mount Is Back as Active NC Main Street Program!

Rocky Mount joins over forty other communities that are actively involved in the North Carolina Main Street program for downtown revitalization. Participation in the program includes access to technical assistance from the staff of the NC Main Street Center. Rodney Swink, Director of NC Main Street, and Meg Dees, Assistant Director, met with the Central City Revitalization Panel at its August meeting to outline services that will be available from the program and to discuss expectations of the program from board members, staff and the City of Rocky Mount.

NC Secretary of Commerce, James T. Fain III, is expected to be in Rocky Mount on Monday, September 10, for an official ceremony in honor of Rocky Mount's re-designation as a Main Street community.



Bright Idea for this issue: Own or manage a business in Rocky Mount? If so, please attend the August 17 meeting sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Development Office. The meeting, set for 8:30 AM in Edgecombe Community College auditorium on the Rocky Mount campus, will focus on ways that area business people can work together to improve safety and security for their businesses.

Preservation Rocky Mount Holds Spring Meeting Saying Goodbye to a Rocky Mount Landmark



Preservation Rocky Mount held its spring meeting on June 21 at the home of President Jean Bailey on Tarboro Street. Jennifer Pridgen, a senior student in historic preservation from the College of Charleston who served as an intern with the Downtown Development office, was the guest speaker. Pridgen, a native of Rocky Mount, distributed photographs of buildings in the community with unique architectural features and stressed the importance of having a preservation plan in place to help the community preserve its architectural heritage. She also shared information about a preservation education program for public schools which helps students learn about the architecture and history of their communities.

Following Pridgen's presentation, members were given an update of preservation activities including the April tour of the Rocky Mount Mill Village and the progress on the renovation of the Summerlin house by its new owners. For information on Preservation Rocky Mount, contact Jean Bailey at 446-1422.



Demolition of old First Baptist Church sanctuary

Arts Center Exhibit Highlights Heritage

The Rocky Mount Arts Center is currently featuring an exhibit "The Art, Architecture, and Artifacts of Rocky Mount" in the gallery at 225 South Church Street. The show includes historical items such as maps, police and fire department memorabilia, antique trains, circus wagons and train station memorabilia. The exhibition will be on display until August 26. Gallery hours are as follows:

Mon-Tues-Wed-Fri	8:30AM-5 PM
Thursday	8:30 AM-8 PM
Saturday	12 PM-5PM
Sunday	2 PM-5 PM

Opportunities for Investment in Downtown

The properties listed below are only a partial listing of investment opportunities in the central city area. This information is published solely to promote the public interest in revitalization of the central city as part of the overall economic improvement of the City of Rocky Mount. Neither the Downtown Development Office nor the City of Rocky Mount has any intent to act in any capacity as an agent for the sale or lease of these properties. For more information about a listing, or to add a property to the list, contact the Downtown Development office at 972-1267.



The Keel House

Beautifully maintained historic building in the heart of downtown Rocky Mount contains approximately 4,543 square feet and is zoned for Office and Institutional Use. Wonderful opportunity for an investor with a vision and appreciation for beautiful architecture.

The Fleming Apartments

Good investment opportunity for adaptive reuse of this classic building on Sunset Avenue. Most recent use was as office space, but the property has great potential for other uses.



105 Marigold Street

For sale or lease. Good, solid commercial building with recent repairs. Owner will consider several financing options for a qualified buyer.



Check Us On Line

The web site for the City of Rocky Mount includes the most recent and earlier editions of *Downtown News*, information about special events in downtown Rocky Mount, available property information, and other important information for people interested in downtown revitalization. The City web site is:

www.ci.rocky-mount.nc.us

From that site, click on the link:

Downtown Development

**Watch C.I.T.Y. TV for Features
on Downtown Revitalization !**